

THE SOCIALIST AND LABOR STAR

RIGHT AND JUSTICE FOR ALL; SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

ENDORSED BY HUNTINGTON TRADES AND LABOR ASSEMBLY.

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LIBERTY AND JUSTICE ARE WINNING IN W. VA.

New Brand of "Law and Order" Loses in Its Battle With "Light and Right."—A Change in Policy of State Administration Forced By Enormous Weight of Public Opinion.—Kern's Resolution Passes Senate and Federal Investigation is An Assured Fact.

With the declaration that "Acts, not Words, will mark my future course," Governor Hatfield, head of the military government of West Virginia, suddenly ceased prating of "Law and Order," ceased sending insulting telegrams to the various civic organizations throughout the state, ceased the publication of bombastic threats in the columns of the prostituted newspapers of the state, and began his "acts", which at least bear a more close resemblance to sanity than his "words" in the past have borne.

Among the first of the "Acts" was the unconditional release of all military prisoners then illegally confined in the various jails of the state, including John W. Brown, C. H. Boswell, Geo. F. Parsons, A. D. Lavinder, G. W. Lavinder, Thomas Miskell, Nelson Treadway, John Seachrist and Chas. Kennedy, the nine men who had been in prison since February 10; Fred H. Merrick, editor of "Justice"; Pittsburg who had been 21 days confined in the Kanawha county jail, T. B. Mulligan, Elmer Rumbaugh and W. H. Thompson, also Kanawha county jail prisoners for 14 days.

Another of the "Acts" was the offering of a reward by the governor for the arrest of the Baldwin thugs who beat up two union organizers in the New River district on May 18. This action was as much of a surprise as was the liberation of the victims of the "Law and Order" crusade, for in the words of Debs, "it had been the custom to reward the thugs for such deeds."

Various other "acts" and declarations of the governor have led to the belief that he is at last coming to the realization that the unrest in West Virginia is not altogether the result of wild-eyed agitation on the part of a few men who have "diseased brains" but in fact rests upon economic conditions which have become absolutely unbearable. It was perhaps natural that as long as Hatfield believed that the trouble in West Virginia was due to the activities of less than a dozen persons, he would endeavor to silence those he believed responsible. When, however, all these suspects had in the chaste language of the executive, been "jugged," and still the thunder of protest against West Virginia methods and conditions grew in volume day by day, he evidently began to see a light.

From the governor's attitude since his inauguration it is plainly evident that he had been incited to his deeds of tyranny, confiscation, etc., by the rabid utterances of the daily papers of the state which, almost without exception, are owned or controlled by the powerful Coal Associations. These agencies have continually advocated the most lawless and violent measures, the local morning howler going so far as to urge the summary hanging of those citizens of Kanawha county who had dared protest against the brutal conditions forced upon them by their masters. Whether these papers can be held responsible as "accessories before the fact" in the numerous murders that have been committed by the agents of the coal interests on Paint Creek, the illegal arrest and confinement of citizens and the destruction of private property on the part of agents of the state government, remains to be seen.

The change in policy of the state administration is, of course, hailed with joy by all those people of the state who love peace and liberty, and who, paradoxical as it may seem, are determined that peace and liberty shall be maintained though they have to fight for such maintenance!

After a month's voyage on the rough sea of legislative legerdemain, during which time it steadily gained strength and grew in popular favor, the famous Kern resolution calling for an investigation of the strike in the Kanawha coalfields by a Senatorial committee was passed Tuesday.

Nothing but good can come to the workers of West Virginia from the now assured investigation. In fact its good effects are already being felt. A few days ago when it became apparent that the Kern resolution was certain to be passed by the Senate, all the men who had been illegally seized and sent to prison by the military despotism established here, were released. Frantic efforts are being made by the state authorities to hush up certain matters and to improve conditions in the coal fields. Martial law will probably be declared off ere this reaches the reader, and every effort will be made to present a peaceful and quiet situation to the investigators, in the place of the tyranny and legalized anarchy that has reigned in the coal fields for more than a year.

The investigating committee is headed by Senator Borah, who made a gallant fight for the passage of the Kern resolution; its other members are Senators Shields, Swanson, Martine and Kenyon. This personnel insures that the investigation will be thorough and searching. It is expected that a sub-committee will come to West Virginia immediately and begin taking evidence, and that its report will be ready for the Senate next month.

During the month of debate on the resolution, Senator Goff, a life long supporter of the greedy West Virginia coal interests and sent by them, in his dotage, to the Senate, has managed to insult comparatively all of his colleagues by his querimoniousness, and has managed to give his state considerably more of that kind of "advertising that don't pay" than it would have otherwise received.

His assertions called forth replies from his fellow citizens that would have certainly landed them in jail had they been within reach of the military arm of West Virginia's government. For instance, Goff in the course of his remarks exclaimed, "the Governor of West Virginia has been placed upon a pedestal by his people," to which Senator Reed replied:

"Instead of standing upon a pedestal he stands in the pillory. In my opinion he will stand there as long as men reverse liberty in West Virginia."

Another Senator in answering some of Goff's eulogies of West Virginia's Governor said:

"The governor of West Virginia struck at the foundations of human liberty! There never fell from the lips of George III, or any of his ministers—there never was written in the infamous reign of Charles II, a doctrine more destructive of human liberty and of all law and order than this doctrine we are now confronted with. It is a doctrine so monstrous that it shocks the confidence and appeals to the judgment of every man who loves his country."

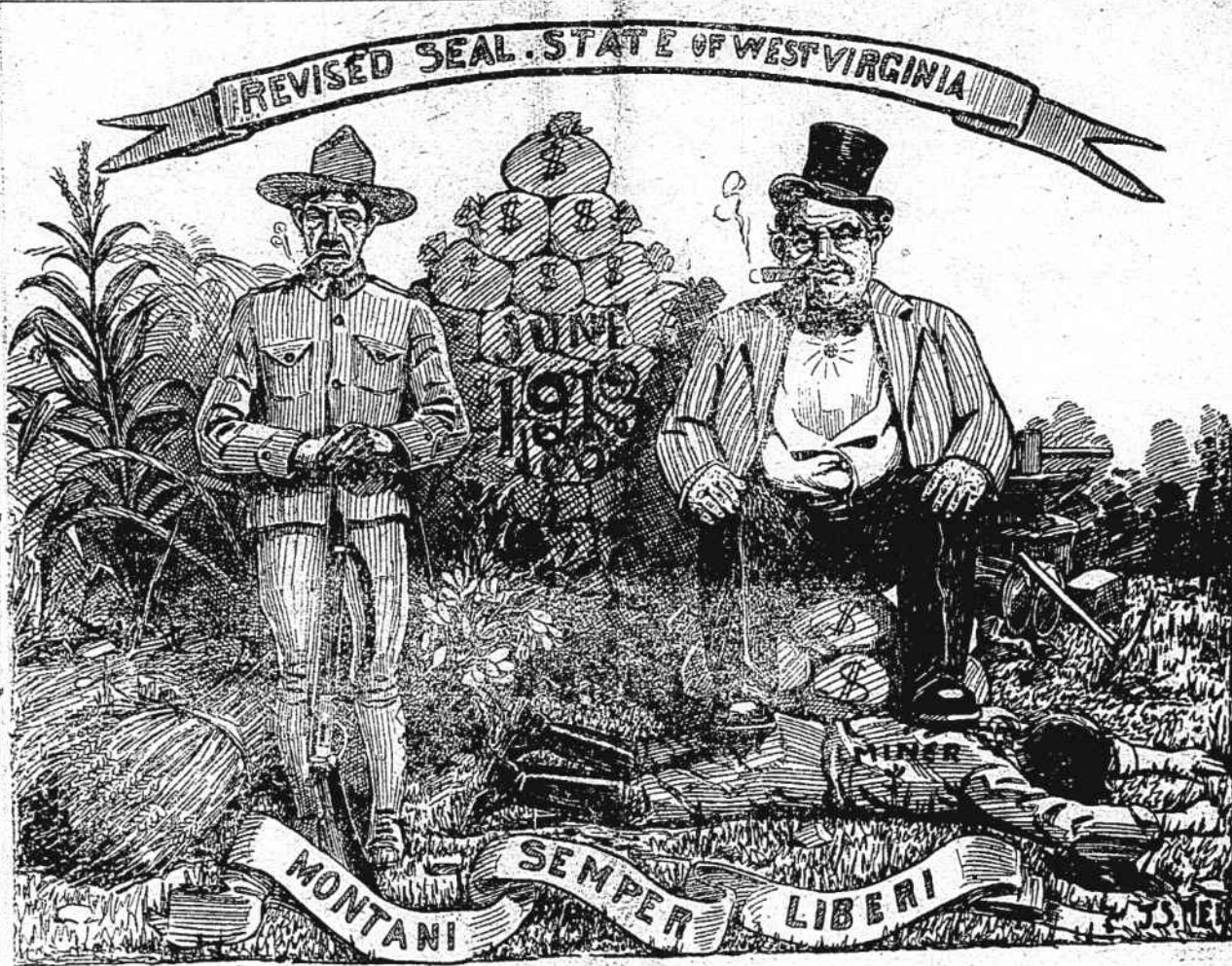
HEAR YE ALL!

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

We will speak out, we will be heard,
Though all earth's systems crack;
We will not bate a single word,
Nor take a letter back.

We speak the TRUTH, and what care we
For hissing and for scorn,
While some faint gleamings we can see
Of Freedom's coming morn.

Let liars fear, let cowards shrink,
Let traitors turn away;
Whatever we have dared to THINK
THAT DARE WE TO SAY.



Our Artist Revised the State Seal of West Virginia as Pictured Above; However the Work of Revising, the Motto was left for Debs and he suggests that Instead of "Montani Semper Liberi" we use "Slug 'Em & Jug 'Em."

Trades & Labor Assembly Hears Report of Committee It Sent to Washington

Which Aided Materially in The Passage of The Kern Resolution.—Proposed Bond Issue Denounced. Other Matters of Interest

An exceptionally large number of delegates attended the regular meeting of the Huntington Trades & Labor Assembly Monday night to hear the report of the committee sent to the National Capitol to lay before the National Government evidences of the overthrow of the Federal constitution in West Virginia, and to assist in the passage of the Kern resolution, calling for a Senatorial investigation of conditions here. In addition to the written report which we reproduce below, the committeemen made verbal reports, going thoroughly into details regarding their work.

The Report

Huntington, W. Va.
May 17, 1912.

Officers and Delegates to the Huntington Central Labor Council.

Greetings:

As your representatives to the National Capitol at Washington, D. C., to assist Senator Kern in the passage of his resolution investigating into conditions in West Virginia, we here submit to you for your consideration and approval, our report.

Your committee met at room 514 Quay Building, Washington, D. C., at 9:30 A. M. for the purpose of formulating plans, prior to procedure. At 10 o'clock we phoned Secretary of Labor, Wm. B. Wilson for the purpose of procuring a conference and soliciting his support; as the Secretary was very busy and about to leave the city for the day, we arranged a hearing for 11:30 that A. M.

We then held a conference with Wm. H. Johnston, President of the International Association of Machinists, and reviewed our mission to him; as Bro. Conlon was in Chicago in charge of the Baltimore 8 hour strike, he told us the best he could do was turn Business Agent Alias, of the Navy Yard district over to us; we thanked him and assured him in case of necessity we would gladly solicit his support.

We then arranged a hearing with Senator Kern, who was then out of the city, for Tuesday at 10 A. M.

As the hour 11:30 arrived we proceeded to Mr. Wilson's office, where we held a long and pleasing conference going fully into detail concerning conditions in and around Huntington, commencing with the protest meeting of May 5th to the present. Mr. Wilson in the course of his remarks said: "This department at the present time has no funds, but when appropriations are made, I am going to make a personal investigation into conditions in West Virginia myself with certain parties out there." Mr. Wilson assured us of his hearty support, and from the outlook he has kept his word.

Completing our hearing with Mr. Wilson, we met with Mr. Frank Morrison, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor; we explained our mission to Washington to him, and he gladly referred us to the Federal Relations Legislative Committeeman Mr. Arthur E. Holder, who stayed with us continually and gave us valuable support, in our hearing before various Senators and our report before Mr. Kern.

On Monday afternoon per agreement we met with Mr. Fairley, agent for the Mine Workers Union (who was also in Washington on a like mission as your delegation.) While in conference in the hotel, to our surprise who arrived but Mother Jones, who had for several months been incarcerated in a West Virginia jail. The meeting was a pleasant one besides a pleasing surprise. Mother Jones stayed with the delegation during all our labors. The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday at 10 A. M.

By agreement we met at Senator Kern's office and furnished him with all the data we had; turning over all newspaper clippings, besides a written detailed statement of all actual happenings, dating from May 5, 1912, showing how judicial laws had been ignored, violation of the Johnson Gun Law, with no procedure and extending martial law 80 miles from the strike zone. The Senator paid close attention to your committee and appeared exceedingly pleased to hear from us.

Completing our hearing with Senator Kern, the committee then proceeded (Continued on last page.)

Bakers Won Their Strike

After a three weeks' exhibition of solidarity, which is well worthy of emulation by other crafts, the local Bakery Workers won their strike against the boss bakers of the city, and contracts guaranteeing better hours, better working conditions and better pay have been signed by the Local Union and every baking establishment in the city.

The Bakers Union although a very young organization, handled their fight in the most effective manner possible. Instead of devoting their energies to picketing the struck shops and trying to prevent scabs from taking their places, they picketed the groceries, restaurants, and other places where bread is sold, inducing customers to purchase only that bread which bore their union label. In this manner they drove the unlabeled bread almost entirely off the local market, and the one union bakery was running night and day, employing comparatively all members of the union who were on strike and furnishing the bread supply for the city.

An extensive label campaign was carried on steadily by the Trades Assembly through its affiliated locals and the opposition to the Bakers Union crumbled under the tactics of "hit 'em in the pocket book."

Now that the baking industry in the city is solidly unionized, let's keep it that way by seeing that every loaf of bread that enters our home bears the guarantee that it is produced under sanitary union conditions.



Star's Plant Destroyed and Its Staff Sent to Jail

Last Act of Tyranny of The Hatfield Military Regime.

To the 'Star' readers who are no doubt wondering why they failed to receive the little truth teller the last few weeks we dedicate this explanation.

There was a reason! On the morning of Friday May 9th, between the hours of 1 and 2 the printing establishment belonging to the Socialist Printing Co., and in which the mechanical work on the Star had been done for the last few months, was raided by militiamen acting under orders from Governor Hatfield. The raiding party was composed of Major Tom Davis and Lieutenants Rippitoe and Templeton who ruthlessly destroyed job work, type, printing material, plates, etc.

The type "forms" of the Star had just been completed and were ready for the regular issue of the paper. Some of the type in the newspaper pages was beaten to a shapeless mass of mashed metal. After the types and plates had been beaten and broken, the "forms" were hurled from the composing stones and their contents scattered over the office and street. Portions of the wrecked material were found the next morning two squares from the Star office.

Not satisfied with their destruction of the Star forms, the valiant soldiers proceeded to demolish departments in which the Socialist Printing Co. did commercial job printing. Every job in this department, including forms for several sets of By-Laws for local unions, which had not yet been printed, were smashed and printed matter ready for delivery to local merchants was destroyed.

All of the account books, letters, invoices, files, and copy in the office were confiscated and carried away.

The Socialist Printing Co. incorporated under the laws of W. Va. authorized to do business in this state, has suffered a loss conservatively estimated at \$2,000.

While the statesoldiers were working the will of the governor upon the inanimate printing plant the civil authorities of Cabell county were busily engaged in carrying out the orders of the same military commander—in another direction. Sheriff Buffington had received lettres de cachet for W. H. Thompson, editor of the Star, Elmer Rumbaugh, reporter, F. M. Sturm, a former employee of the Company, R. M. Kephart, Geo. W. Gillespie, officers of the Socialist Printing Co. The warrants were placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff Frampton who, as befits one dealing with secret arrests of such desperate criminals, surrounded the residences of his sleeping victims with his posse in the wee small hours of the morning, awakened them and spirited them away to the Cabell county jail.

A message from Gov. Hatfield early Friday morning directed Sheriff Buffington to turn his prisoners over to the military officers who wrecked the printing plant.

The victims of the midnight raid vigorously protested to the sheriff against such action being taken, pointing out to him that they were citizens of Cabell county and that they should not be deported without due process of law. Their protests were unheeded however, and they were taken to Charleston Friday evening May 9th and landed in the Kanawha county jail—the foulest, filthiest, most crowded bastille in the state.

Saturday night Gillespie, Kephart and Sturm were released from custody, it being discovered that they were by no means the ferocious criminals indicated as in the letters of arrest. Thompson and Rumbaugh were held 14 days and then released without ever having had charges of any kind made against them.

After Editor Thompson was arrested and safely lodged behind bars at the Charleston jail, Lieutenants Templeton and Rippitoe went to his home where his wife was alone and ill from shock and proceeded to ransack the house, carrying away numerous private papers and books. Mrs. Thompson protested against this last outrage and demanded to know by what authority these men were invading and looting her home. They showed no warrant and said the search and seizure was made by order of Major Tom Davis.

It should be said to the credit of Sheriff Frampton that he too protested to the soldiers against the searching of private residences and the destruction of private property without warrant of law. The militiamen informed him that they were acting under secret orders which must be obeyed.

We almost forget to state that these midnight proceedings were ordered because The Labor Star and its owners had dared to disagree with Gov. Hatfield in the matter of the miners strike which he has just settled (!) so satisfactorily—to Tim Scanlon and the Huntington Chamber of Commerce.

Debs, Berger and Germer Investigate Industrial Conditions in This State

The committee consisting of Eugene V. Debs, Victor Berger and Adolf Germer, sent into West Virginia to investigate the industrial conditions in the coal fields, the confiscation of Socialist newspapers and the persecution of Socialists generally, arrived in Charleston, Monday May 19 and after laboring night and day at their task returned to Chicago, Wednesday of this week to present their report to the National Committee.

While it is generally regretted by the party in this state that the National Organization did not take up the West Virginia fight some months earlier when conditions were at their worst, still it is realized that great good has been done by the publicity given the situation since the National Committee began to act and that the work of Debs and his co-workers here was in a large measure responsible for the change in attitude

of the the state government. Soon after the arrival of Debs the capitalist newspapers began printing alleged interviews with him in which he was represented as endorsing the actions of the state officials in their efforts to break the miners strike. While no one believed these statements at first, they were circulated with such persistency that messages from all over the state began to pour into Debs' office in Charleston, asking an explanation. To a message from The Majority at Wheeling, last Friday Debs wired:

"Reports absolutely false." Huntington Socialist Local at its meeting Sunday discussed the alleged statements of Debs as published in the local papers and instructed its Secretary to write him concerning them. In answer to the secretary's (Continued on last page.)